

The following comments are provided in response to an Official Action dated September 22, 1998 which issued in the parent application (i.e., U.S. Application Serial No. 08/893,878 filed July 11, 1997).

In the parent application, claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12 and 16 were canceled. These claims are respectfully presented herein.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12 and 16 were rejected under "35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knee et al. (US Patent # 5,589,892) in view of Mankovitz et al. (US Patent # 5,543,929)".

The present invention provides a technique for employing a series of program windows with functions to control a display of an electrical program guide of broadcast program information and recorded program information. In the present invention, there is provided a command area in the form of a window to display items for selecting a command function relative to the program display guide. For example, as illustrated in Figs. 11D and 11E, there is a command mode displaying command items in a command window and an input window for entry of the chosen command item. The broadcast program information and recorded program information are displayed in the electrical program guide. A user may select program information for more than one program which may be processable by a single electrical program guide function (i.e., a single command function). Therefore, broadcast information and recorded program information associated therewith for more than one program may be selected by activating a desired single electrical program guide function only once.

Claim 1 (and corresponding method claim 4), have been amended herein so as to claim the feature of enabling the selecting for more than one program the broadcast information and recorded program information associated therewith, by activating the desired single electrical program function only once. For example, independent amended claim 1 recites in part as follows:

"display control means capable of displaying simultaneously, as an electrical program guide to provide the program-related information, the program information relative to both of the broadcast programs and the recorded programs on the basis of the broadcast program information stored in said broadcast program information storage means and also the recorded program information stored in said recorded program information storage means whereby both broadcast program information and recorded program information are processable by a single electrical program guide function so as to enable a user to select for more than one program the broadcast information and recorded program information associated therewith by activating the desired single electrical program guide function only once." (Underlining added for emphasis).

With regard to the above-mentioned §103 rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12 and 16 in the parent application Serial No. 08/893,878, the portions of Knee et al. and Mankovitz et al. relied upon by the Examiner do not appear to disclose the above-mentioned feature. Accordingly, consistent therewith, applicants' undersigned attorney respectfully submits that the applied combination of Knee et al. and Mankovitz et al. does not appear to disclose the feature of "so as to enable a user to select for more than one program the broadcast information and recorded program information associated therewith by activating the desired single electrical program guide function only once" as in claim 1. Likewise, the applied combination of Knee and

Mankovitz does not appear to disclose the feature of "so as to enable a user to select for more than one program the broadcast information and recorded program information associated therewith by activating the desired single electrical program guide function only once" as in claim 4.

Claims 2, 5-10, 12 and 16 are dependent from one of the independent claims 1 and 4 and, as such, respectively incorporate all of the above-mentioned limitations contained therein. Therefore, claims 2, 5-10, 12 and 16 are also patentably distinguished from the applied combination of Knee et al. and Mankovitz et al. for at least the reasons previously discussed.

The Examiner has made of record in the Official Action dated September 22, 1998 of the parent application (i.e., Application Serial No. 08/893,878), but not applied, several U.S. Patents. The applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that these references, whether considered alone or in combination with others, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable.

It is to be appreciated that the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art represent the present opinions of the applicants' undersigned attorney and, in the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where, in the reference or references, there is the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art. An early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

Dennis M. Smid
Registration No. 34,930
Tel. (212) 588-0800